



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1218—Child Custody Protection Act

H.R. 66—Route 66 Preservation Act

H.R. 791—Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study Act

H.R. 592—Designating the World War Veterans Park at Miller Field



H.R. 1218—Child Custody Protection Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 1218 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule providing two hours of debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The rule waives all points order against consideration of the bill and provides one motion to recommit.

Summary: H.R. 1218 makes it a federal offense to transport a minor to another state, other than the minor child's state of residence, in order to circumvent state parental consent and notification laws so that the child may obtain an abortion. The bill is not intended to supercede, override, or otherwise alter existing state laws regarding access to abortion services for minors; nor does the bill impose additional parental notice or consent requirements on states. During the 105th Congress, the House passed a similar measure (H.R. 3682; *H.Rept. 105-605*) by a vote of 276-150 on July 15, 1998.

The bill is designed to respond to concerns over deliberate intentions to skirt state laws that prohibit crossing a state line to obtain an abortion. Generally, these laws are enacted in the interest of (1) providing the greatest protection of the health and safety of a minor who has an abortion that results in medical complications, and (2) preserving the rights of parents to be aware of their children's health and medical welfare. However, when a school-aged girl is taken to another state to abort her unborn child, she generally does so without her parents' knowledge—the intent of traveling to another state in the first place—which violates the laws of several states enforcing interstate travel for these purposes. The bill was introduced by Ms. Ros-Lehtinen; the Judiciary Committee reported the bill by a vote of 16-13 on June 23, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration strongly opposes the bill and the president has threatened to veto the measure in its current form.

Amendments: Under the closed rule, no amendments are permitted. However, it is expected that **Mr. Conyers** will offer a motion to recommit. The instructions for the motion will likely be identical or similar to Mr. Conyers's substitute amendment (which was not made in order under the rule), which makes it a federal offense to use force or the threat of force to transport a minor across a state line with the intent that the minor obtain an abortion. The offense will be punishable by a fine, a prison term of up to five years, or both.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #19, June 25, 1999.



H.R. 66—Route 66 Preservation Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 66 after it completes consideration of H.R. 1218. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The bill makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and waives House rules prohibiting non-germane amendments against consideration of the bill. In addition, the rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 66 authorizes the Interior Secretary to establish cultural resource programs through the National Park Service to preserve the Route 66 corridor. The bill directs the Interior Secretary to coordinate the preservation effort with state, local, tribal, and private institutions in preserving the highway and insuring highway safety and maintenance standards. The secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, accept donations, execute cost-sharing agreements for preservation projects, promote research in historic preservation and interpretation, and serve as a clearing house for communication among entities that participate in the preservation effort. The measure authorizes \$10 million for FYs 2000-2009 to allow the secretary to provide grants and technical assistance to carry out the preservation effort. The bill was introduced by Mrs. Wilson *et al.* and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on April 28, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #19, June 25, 1999.



H.R. 791—Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 791 after it completes consideration of H.R. 66. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The bill makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

H.R. 791 amends the National Trails System Act to authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to study the route of the British invasion of Maryland and Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812, as well as the route of the American defense, for potential inclusion in the National Trails System. The route of the British invasion extends through six Maryland counties, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland. The proposed trail will begin where British forces attacked Calvert County, Maryland, in August 1814. The trail then moves to Washington, D.C., where the British burned the U.S. Capitol and the White House, and finally through areas of major engagements such as the Battle of Bladensburg in Prince George's County, the Upper Chesapeake Bay in Cecil County, and the battle of Caulk's Field in Kent County. The trail ends at Fort McHenry, where Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilchrest and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on June 9, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 791. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #19, June 25, 1999.



H.R. 592—Designating the World War Veterans Park at Miller Field

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 592 after it completes consideration of H.R. 791. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The bill makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 592 designates an area in the Gateway National Recreation Area as the "World War Veterans Park at Miller Field." The park is located in the Staten Island, New York, portion of the Gateway National Recreation Area. Because sections of the Gateway National Recreation Area are named by

statute, congressional approval is required to legally change the names. The bill was introduced by Fossella *et al.* and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on June 9, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 592. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #19, June 25, 1999.

PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.



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